

REMARKS

Claims 9-11 have been canceled. Claims 1, 18, and 21 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-8 and 12-21 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 and 12-21 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Cohen.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claims 1 and 21, Cohen describes a static, hypothetical assessment of network vulnerabilities. By contrast, claims 1 and 21 have been amended to recite an analysis performed in response to an actual, ongoing attack, including by “taking a responsive action in real time, prior to the asset actually being reached by the threat agent, the responsive action comprising a control or other countermeasure that results in the threat agent being rendered unable to reach the asset via the attack path.” Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 21 is found, without limitation, in the application at page 13, lines 8-13; page 18, lines 14-20; page 19, line 21 – page 20, line 11; and page 22, lines 17-21.

The approach taught by Cohen would require that every possible attack and attack path be anticipated and evaluated prior to an attack taking place, whereas the approach recited in the claims as amended would enable network administrators to respond in real-time to unanticipated attacks, possibly exploiting previously unknown vulnerabilities, including by indicating whether particularly important assets have been placed at risk and, if so, acting on a priority basis to disrupt any attack path(s) determined to be available to the threat agent given the threat agents success in achieving the “existing access level.” As such, claims 1 and 21 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-8 and 12-20 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Dated: 2-25-08

Respectfully submitted,



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